SUBJECTS.

99. Cutting of teak trees on Ayacut land without payment of royalty.

(3) That the people might be granted the privilege of cutting and removing teak trees standing on lands registered in the Ayacut without payment of royalty.

Dewan's reply.—(No. 1) It has been decided by Government that proper scales should be purchased and kept in the several bankshalls. This is being done.

(No. 2) Will be considered in the Excise Department.

(No. 3) Government are aware that there is some inconvenience in the matter of cutting teak trees standing on private lands and they are considering in what way relief could be granted without loss to Government.

100. Separation of revenue from magisterial functions.

Mr. K. Ittan Pillai (Member, Muvattupuzha Taluk) said that the responsibility in regard to the disposal of revenue cases rested with the Tahsildar who, however, invariably delegated the work to the Rayasoms. Those subordinates summoned parties and witnesses, took down statements and drafted decisions. That led to malpractices in most of the Taluks. If the Tahsildar was to do his revenue work satisfactorily, he should be divested of his magisterial duties. If that was not immediately possible, he requested that at least the enquiry into revenue cases might be made in the presence of the Tahsildar who should himself take down notes of evidence and write the decisions.

Mr. S. Padmanabha Pillai (Member, Karunagapalli Taluk) spoke at length in favour of the representation and referred to the experiment tried by a former Dewan in four Taluks of the State. In conclusion, he suggested (1) the separation of the revenue from the magisterial functions, (2) the appointment of a Munsiff for each Taluk with second and third class magisterial powers, and (3) the appointment of Village Munsiffs and the institution of Panchayets to lighten the small cause work of the Munsiffs.

Mr. K. Narayana Panikkar (Member, Karunagapalli Taluk) also supported the suggestion.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

101. Granting translations of judgments to parties.

Mr. S. Krishna Aiyer (Member, Todupuzha Taluk) requested that orders might be issued for the granting to parties of translations of judgments and other records written in English.

Dewan's reply.—This is provided for in the existing rules.

102. Reform of the Police Department.

Mr. P. Raman Tampi (Member, Trivandrum Taluk) said that the cry of Police torture and corruption was the same here and in British India and that the Policeman

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was unpopular. The numerous cases of retracted confessions furnished a formidable array of evidence against him. The Police theory was that the more heinous the crime, the less mendacious was the criminal. The offender, he said, makes no confession in ordinary cases. If, for example, in the course of a quarrel, one kicks a neighbour, or disarms or knocks a ruffian down, one does not confess. But the man who in pursuance of a preconcerted conspiracy murders a fellow being, or joins a gang of dacoits, commits burglary or ravishes an unoffending maiden, becomes all at once a penitent. His conscience asserts its sway over him and drives him straightway to a Police confessor before whom he makes a clean breast of everything in the hope of salvation. That, he said, was too ridiculous. He suggested that a detective establishment be attached to the Police Force, that the service be made more attractive to a better class of men, that the District Magistrates be given a more direct control over the Police officer, that the powers of the Station-House officer be curtailed and the Inspector ordered to conduct the investigation in all important cases subject to the check of the District Magistrate, and that the practice of remanding a prisoner to the custody of the same Policeman that produced him before the Magistrate for the recording of confessions be discontinued. He also spoke on the harsh treatment of under-trial prisoners.

Mr. S. Krishna Aiyer (Member, Kartikappalli Taluk) advocated a higher scale of pay to the Constabulary and the opening of a Police school to give Policemen a preliminary training.

Mr. P. Kesava Pillai (Member, Quilon Taluk) attributed the unsatisfactory state of the Police to two other causes—the absence of effective supervision on the part of the superior officers and the freedom of Police officers from the control of public opinion. He suggested that Constables and Station-House officers should be men of the locality to which they were appointed, that a list of Thadasthars might be made for each village and that in the drawing up of the mahazar, a certain number of those men should be present and attest the record and that the Police must be required to send copy of the occurrence report, together with copies of the complaints they may have received, to the District Magistrate before they proceeded with the case.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestions will be considered.

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It was now 11—25 A. M. According to the programme notified by Government, the Assembly was to meet only for three days, and to have closed its sittings this day. As, however, numerous representations remained to be taken up, it was resolved at the request of the members to hold another sitting.

The meeting was accordingly adjourned to 2 P. M. on the following day.

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